

[Mrs. Winterer]

[??]

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Bessie Jollensten ADDRESS Ogallala, Nebr.

DATE Nov. 25, 1938 SUBJECT William Winterer, Keystone, Neb

1. Name and address of informant Mrs. Winterer, his wife.
2. Date and time of interview Keystone, 2:30 Oct. 19, 1938
3. Place of interview Keystone Library
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant Mrs. McCarthy, Ogallala, Nebraska
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you Mrs McCarthy, Ogallala
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc. Large room lined [on?] 2 sides with books shelves filled with books. An old fashioned organ in south side of room. Mrs McCarthys, and Anna Gray Clark's pictures were enlarged and hanging on the wall above bookshelves. They were both of Ogal and both took part in establishing this library.

FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Bessie Jollensten ADDRESS Ogallala, Neb.

DATE Nov. 25, 1938 SUBJECT William Wintered, Keystone, Neb.

Library of Congress

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mrs. William Winterer, Keystone, Neb.

1. Ancestry Irish descent
2. Place and date of birth Menominee, Dunn County Wisconsin
3. Family
4. Place lived in, with dates Rolling County Kansas in [1879?]
5. Education, with dates Early schooling in Wisconsin
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates House wife and helped in most all the social events in and around Keystone. Very much interested in library at Keystone
7. Special skills and interests
8. Community and religious activities
9. Description of informant Dark complected, medium height, slender.
10. Other points gained in interview Apparently well educated in many lines.

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER Bessie Jollensten ADDRESS Ogallala, Nebr.

DATE Nov. 25, 1938 SUBJECT William Winterer

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mrs. William Winterer

William Winterer was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, December 11, 1858. Anton Winterer, his father was a native of Baden Germany where he was reared to manhood. His mother Barbara Hirsch in her maiden days was reared in [Beveria?]. They were married in

Library of Congress

Philadelphia about 1852. Anton Winterer and his family came to Milwaukee in the fall of '63 and settled in the thick hardwood timber country, Vernon County, Wis. Here they lived during the Civil War. The father served as a member of the Forty-seventh Wisconsin volunteer infantry during the last year and half of the war. In later years he lived at Hillsboro, Wisconsin, and retired from active live. They were among the first pioneers of the locality. They settled in country so thickly wooded that they had to clear a road in order that a wagon could pass through, as there was only foot paths to the building spot. Here William H. Winterer was raised on a timber farm. Logging and grubbing was the chief occupation. There were very few schools and the children had to walk three miles to school. In 1879 the family went to Rollins county, Kansas, and the next year came to the North Platte River near Keystone, Nebraska.

Here William worked for several cattle men, and was with M. Burk and son and John Bratt and company, for some time. During his experiences he came to Keystone and decided to locate on a farm. Of course this country was very crude, but he thought there were great possibilities if one would but develop them.

For several years he spent his time roughing it, but the North Platte River seemed the place for him. He saw herds of buffalo on the prairies and wild game was plentiful in 1881. The farm on which Mr. Winterer settled is in section 34, township 15, range 37. A sod house and barn were built, and he made his way by working for other settlers by breaking prairie, putting up hay. He was able to make a living and save a little as he went. Finally, he bought a small herd of cattle adding to them until he had 225 head and 50 horses. He had 320 acres in the North Platte River valley besides his pasture land. He has running streams of water through his place besides a great many trees. William H. Winterer was married December 10, 1889 to Miss Louisa M. Cantrill, who was born and raised in Menominee, Dunn County, Wisconsin. Her father, William Cantrill, was a ship carpenter and a pioneer of that state. He had lived in Nova scotia and also in New York. Mr. Winterer had seen many discouragements, as he was burned out losing most of his

Library of Congress

buildings and then the dry '90's, when the grass was so scarce that it took most of his land to supply grass for his stock. Despite all this he stayed with his farm.

He also had held various offices of responsibility. He belonged to the Evangelical church, Modern Woodmen, Odd Fellows, and his wife belonged to the Rebekahs. Mr. Winterer has since passed away.